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Title: Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy Newsletter

Author(s): Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy

Published by: Fort Ross Conservancy Library

URL: www.fortross.org

Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) www.fortross.org

While fat snowflakes drifted down past the redwoods above Fort Ross we thought of Eve and Abe Crittenden who are now in midsummer in New Zealand at Noah's Hotel! The Crittendens are on a forestry study tour and are sorely missed by all of us on the north coast, especially those who must do without Eve's special touch editing the NEWSLETTER. After New Zealand Eve and Abe will bounce across Australia by bus to visit their grand-daughter, Shamu Star and family and be home by May 1 after a visit to Kushu, a southern island of Japan.

Our exciting news this Spring is the visit to Fort Ross, February 24 of Peter Kalifornsky, a native Alaskan nearing seventy years of age, whose great, great-grandfather worked at the Fort as a trapper for the Russians. Mr. Kalifornsky will give a talk at Fort Ross School at 7:30 Saturday evening after a visit to Bodega and to the Fort during the afternoon. His visit to California, the state which gave its name to his village and his tribe has been made possible by the Fort Ross Interpretive Association and professors of linguistics at U.C. Davis and U.C.L.A.

Kalifornsky is a Dena'ina Athabaskan who was born in Kalifornsky Village on the Kenai Peninsula of southcentral Alaska. For most of his life he has led a typical twentieth-century Dena'ina man's life of hunting, trapping and fishing. He is one of only two people left on the peninsula who speak the Dena'ina language, which is connected with the Navaho. He may be able to tell us some of what happened to his people once John Sutter bought the Fort. It will certainly be a fascinating experience to meet him and to hear his experiences Saturday evening, February 24. Accompanying him will be Dr. James Kari of the University of Alaska and Dr. Morgan Sherwood of U.C. Davis.

We hope to see you all at Fort Ross School on February 24 with any history buffs you can bring along.

A change in the by-laws which were adopted last fall has clarified the time of the election of new board members so that it does not coincide with the election of officers. The new officers, who began their duties in January, are: Florrie Milligan, Chairman; Prof. Vladimir Schenk, Vice Chairman; Lida Schneider, Recording Secretary; Jeannette Plante Rosson, Corresponding Secretary; Lloyd Geissinger, Executive Secretary; and Betty Musser, Membership Chairman. Other board members are Eve Crittenden, Jacqueline Hallett, Virgil Luckey, John McKenzie, Prof. Nicholas Rokitiansky, Paul Shebelin, Mercedes Stafford and Richard Tooker. Moses Hallett continues as our able Treasurer.

We were all saddened by news of the death of Bickford O'Brien, who did an outstanding job as editor of the new edition of "Fort Ross" our guide to the history of the Fort. The Book has been snapped up by visitors to the Fort since went on sale in October and even in the slow winter months it has sold about four hundred copies.

During the winter months the Book and Gift Shop has been open on weekends and visitors are greeted by a roaring fire and a cup of hot spiced cider. It takes a special sort of person to brave the north winds and rain and even snow, but there is a special beauty too in the racing clouds, the sheep grazing inside the high walls, and an occasional whale spouting out at sea.

The annual membership meeting is scheduled for April 27th - more news later. Membership fees are due as usual April 1st - send to: Betty Musser, 9532 Clint Court, Casadero, Ca. 95421.

Happy New Year from the temporary editors of the NEWSLETTER,

Norah Barr, Joyce Constant and Betty Musser